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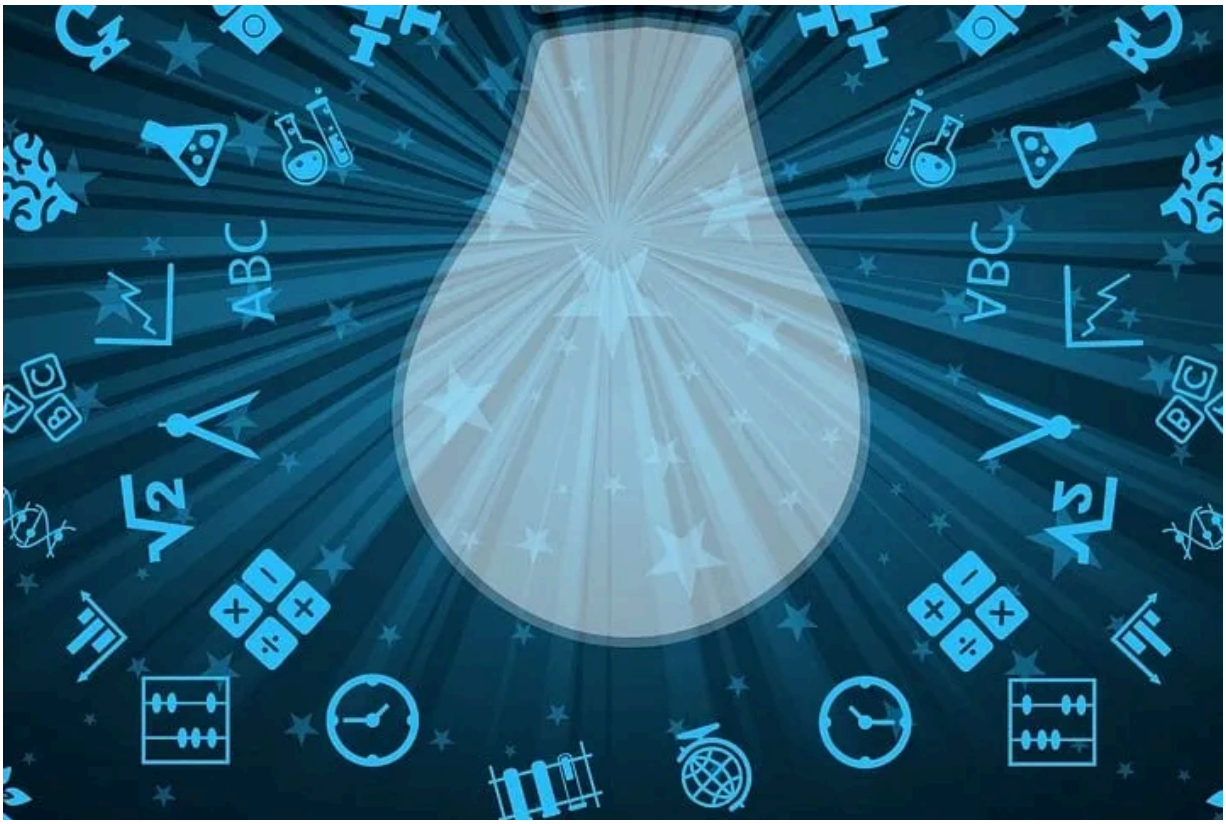
NEWS — DID YOU KNOW

# Did you know? Conservation Commission

TARA HUGHES | STAFF WRITER

August 21, 2023 . 8:50 PM — 1 min read



An occasional column about town activities by Tara Hughes

August 27, 2023. Did you know that Winchester has a 7-member Conservation Commission? The members are appointed for a 3-y by the Town Manager and approved by the Select Board. The Commission

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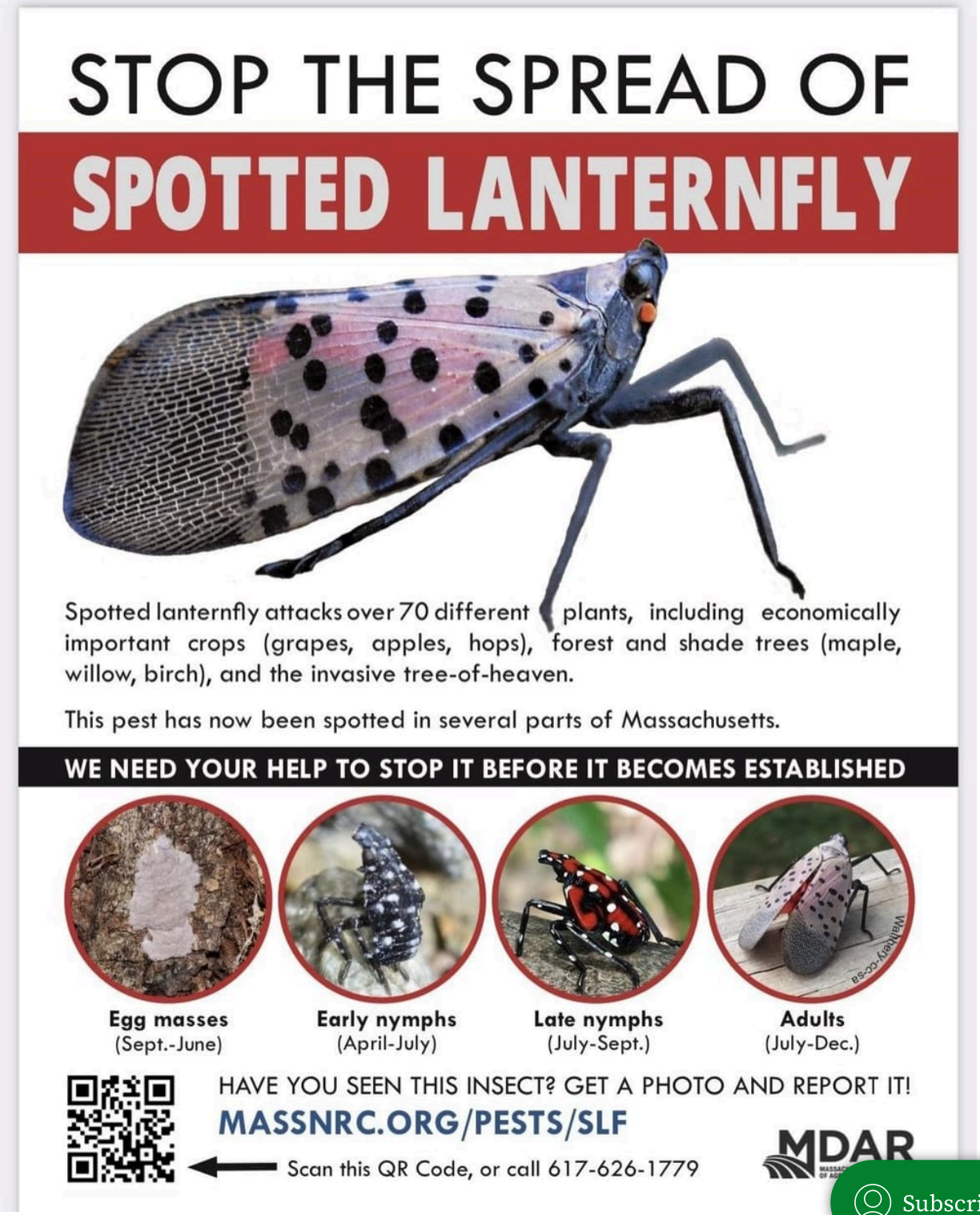
is responsible for preservation of open space in Winchester and for the implementation of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act as it pertains to Winchester. They are also responsible for implementing the Winchester Wetlands Bylaw. As Trustees of Winchester's conservation land, they have also established Conservation Area Land Use Regulations.


STOP THE SPREAD OF
SPOTTED LANTERNFLY
Spotted lanternfly attacks over 70 different plants, including economically important crops (grapes, apples, hops), forest and shade trees (maple, willow, birch), and the invasive tree-of-heaven.
This pest has now been spotted in several parts of Massachusetts.
WE NEED YOUR HELP TO STOP IT BEFORE IT BECOMES ESTABLISHED
Egg masses (Sept.-June)
Early nymphs (April-July)
Late nymphs (July-Sept.)
Adults (July-Dec.)
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS INSECT? GET A PHOTO AND REPORT IT!
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Projects that are in or near wetland resource areas must have a public hearing before the Commission. A Notice of Intent must be filed by the project. Some examples of big projects that have come before the Conservation Commission are the Eversource Woburn to Wakefield Line and the new Lynch Elementary School. Homeowners and builders seeking building permits on lots considered wetlands, such as near ponds and streams, must also apply to the commission. In addition to overseeing projects in or near wetland resource areas, they are also responsible for the Aberjona Initiative, an effort to restore the scenic Aberjona River. They also provide resources such as on creating a pollinator garden, a guide on native and wetland plants, how to stop the spread of the spotted lanternfly and information on the fish ladder at the Center Falls Damn including updates on herring observations in the Aberjona River.

To learn more, visit their page at: https://www.winchester.us/316/Conservation-Commission

Please note that the Conservation Commission currently has a vacancy, which term expires in 2025.

*Tara Hughes is the President of Winchester News Group and a Precinct 1 Town Meeting Member.*

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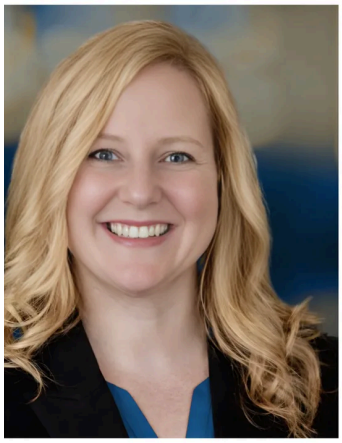

NEWS

## Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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March 4, 2026

NEWS

## Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

NEWS

## Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses

NEWS

## Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for rente

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis

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as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

March 3, 2026

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GIRLS GOTTA RUN
MIND & MATTER

EVENTS

## Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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NEWS

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FEATURES

## ‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

## Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

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